



**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD**  
**12 September 2023 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**  
**In-person at Library and on ZOOM**  
**MIINUTES**

INTRODUCTIONS: \*Judy Rowe, \*Greg Lewis, \*Willie Love, \*Joe Syslo, \*Page Herbert, Tyler Beekhoo, Deb Falco, Judi Green, Ramona Wilson, Jon Mohr \* Voting members - quorum = 5

MINUTES: by email – approved as amended by voice vote

OLD BUSINESS

**Breezeline VATI Grant Project: Willie**

All projects completed and closed on 3/31/2023; 210 connected; 6 month report completed; future followups at 12 months and 18 months with Crystal Duke

**OpenBroadband VATI Grant Project: Joe**

Awaiting climbers to change out the equipment; hold up was the a permitting and structural analysis in Gloucester, not OBB; Mathews/ American Tower Co./North End Tower is ready to go

**Website: Page**

Judy had sent content and revision to logo. Page had not received either. Judy and Page will follow up on this.

NEW BUSINESS

**Verizon Proposal: Willie**

In conversation with Tom - no regulatory problems.

Joe asked clarification for the process moving forward: what part does Mathews play. As of now we will provide a letter of support from the county and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Judy reported talking with Ramona about these and asked Joe to help as needed. She added that Marshal Ruffin had offered to help with the grant writing, too.

Willie and Joe have talked with Rob Wittman, Dr. Daniel has offered to contact Keith Hodges; Judy is going to contact Mark Warner. Dr. Daniel should write a letter of support for our application. Chris Debosier offered to help Dr. Daniel if Mathews County Public Schools apply for the County Anchor Institutions (CAI) grant.

### **Monopole Towers RFPs: Ramona, Jon**

No responses as yet. Were sent out more than a month ago. She hopes for some by Friday. Sent out by both Ramona and Jeff.

**Power to tower?** Need load letters from whomever is going to lease. Jon Mohr: Previous load letters were from Ed Mueller for the light and basic service to the board. Justin from Dominion; going to look at similar situation to estimate how much tower to set up at the towers. 4 meter boxes, (100 amps per meter /per disconnect), Jon will call to see where they are with installing the power. Judy raised concern about how long this is taking saying that this was discussed with the engineer on site more than a month ago. Jon is going to call them today and let us know if there is anything we need to do.

### **Verizon questions: Judy**

Why/How did Mathews get this? Cost effectiveness is one major factor: Already have a central hub, other remote hubs, and miles of fiber not being used. They want to get rid of the copper, too. (Tom Walls also happens to know Tim Hudgins.) They want to work only with Mathews as their first BEAD project. Mathews is listed as having 2088 homes. Final map should be out the end of September (numbers of unserved and underserved). Underserved is defined as less than 100 Mbps down and less than 20 Mbps up. BEAD funding takes into account the average of the cost of line extensions for these households. They are the people who have not been reached yet with rural broadband. Virginia's average is between 10K and 20K. We will meet with Verizon every two weeks.

Broadband Equity Accessibility & Deployment (BEAD) 75% to come from Grant, 25% from the provider and 0% from Mathews, Virginia is #6 in receiving BEAD funding. The US is not in the top 10 worldwide, we are #13 in internet speed. Speeds with Verizon will be synchronous (300 Mbps down and 300 Mbps up).

**Unsolicited proposals?** The BAB will weigh the two proposals and advise the BOS on which one to pursue. How will we compare the two

proposals? Compare speeds using speed tests, compare costs, compare affordability, compare what we will do with it.

**Office Space** for Virtual Office Space (Pearl Foster): Does Verizon need an office, does the BAB, if it becomes an authority, need an office?

**Parade Float:** may have help from students Key Club

“There are no strings attached to the grants. We do our homework on this board. We are checking behind everything we are offered. We are checking off all the boxes.” Judy Rowe

ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 9:44.